

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for ~~the purification of~~ producing marigold oleoresin, which is characterized by carrying out a step of subjecting marigold oleoresin to supercritical fluid extraction and a step of dissolving marigold oleoresin in a ketone solvent, cooling the solution and removing the ingredient which precipitated in solution.

2. (Currently amended) A method for ~~the purification of~~ producing marigold oleoresin claimed in Claim 1, which is characterized in that ~~a purified marigold oleoresin having a low viscosity and a high lutein content is obtained by carrying out a step of subjecting marigold oleoresin to supercritical fluid extraction and a step of dissolving marigold oleoresin in a ketone solvent, cooling the solution and removing the ingredient which precipitated in solution.~~ isolated.

3. (Currently amended) A method for ~~the purification of~~ producing marigold oleoresin claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 2~~ Claim 1, which is characterized by carrying out a the step of supercritical fluid extraction in the presence of a diluent.

4. (Currently amended) A method for ~~the purification of~~ producing marigold oleoresin claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, which is characterized by using a supercritical fluid selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide, ethane, ethylene, propane, toluene and dinitrogen monoxide.

5. (Currently amended) A method for ~~the purification of~~ producing marigold oleoresin claimed in Claim 1, which is characterized in that the ketone solvent ~~described in Claim 1~~ is acetone, methylethylketone or diethylketone.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~the purification of~~ producing marigold oleoresin claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, wherein the supercritical fluid extraction is carried out using a carbon dioxide supercritical fluid under the condition that the carbon dioxide pressure is $(980 \text{ to } 2940) \times 10^4 \text{ Pa}$ ($=\text{N/m}^2$) and the temperature is at critical

temperature to 80°C.

7. (Currently amended) A method for ~~the purification of~~ producing marigold oleoresin claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 6, wherein the supercritical fluid extraction is carried out using a carbon dioxide supercritical fluid under the condition that the carbon dioxide pressure is $(1470 \text{ to } 2450) \times 10^4 \text{ Pa}(= \text{N/m}^2)$ and the temperature is at 40°C to 60°C.

8. (Currently amended) Purified marigold oleoresin obtained by a the method described in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 1.

9. (Currently amended) Purified marigold oleoresin as claimed in Claim 8, having low viscosity and a high lutein content ~~obtained by a method described in any one of Claims 1 to 7~~.

10. (Currently amended) Purified marigold oleoresin as claimed in Claim 8 which contains not less than 20% of lutein-fatty acid ester and has a viscosity of not more than 20,000 mPa.s at 30°C.

11. (Currently amended) Purified marigold oleoresin as claimed in Claim 10 which contains not less than 30% of lutein-fatty acid ester and has a viscosity of not more than 20,000 mPa.s at 30°C.

12. (Currently amended) Purified marigold oleoresin ~~described~~ as claimed in Claim 11, which has a viscosity of not more than 10,000 mPa.s at 30°C.

13. (Currently amended) Purified marigold oleoresin ~~described~~ as claimed in Claim ~~11~~ 12, which has a viscosity of not more than 5,000 mPa.s at 30°C.

14. (Currently amended) A soft capsule which contains the purified marigold oleoresin ~~described~~ as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 8 to 13~~ Claim 8.